

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 20, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

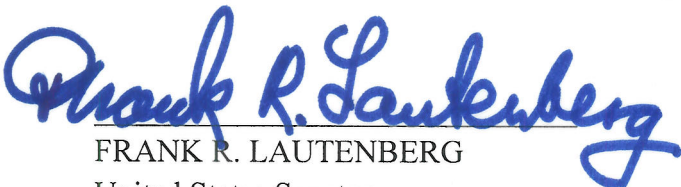
We are writing to urge you to grant Governor Corzine's request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration and emergency assistance for residents of New Jersey counties devastated by the snowstorm that began on December 19, 2009. The areas affected most severely by this storm include: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Monmouth, Ocean, and Salem Counties.

New Jersey was among the states struck by a powerful snowstorm on December 19, 2009, that caused widespread damage and required a full emergency response from the state's agencies. Record-setting snowfalls, reaching more than two feet in some parts, accompanied by high winds caused power outages and made roads and sidewalks impassible. Despite the professionalism and dedication of emergency management personnel, the sheer magnitude of this disaster overwhelmed the limited resources of our state, which was still recovering from the devastating nor'easter that struck just one month earlier.

With millions of dollars in damage caused by this snowstorm, New Jersey is seeking a much-needed disaster declaration to assist in the recovery of these hardest hit areas. The devastation endured by New Jersey residents, business owners, and local governments merits a disaster declaration and emergency assistance. We urge you to approve this request as soon as possible to ensure the people of New Jersey can begin to rebuild and mitigate against future disasters.

Thank you in advance for your full consideration of New Jersey's request. We look forward to your prompt action on this important issue.

Sincerely,


FRANK R. LAUTENBERG
United States Senator


ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator